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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/375,901	08/17/99	KNUDSON	E UV-100

□

LM02/0202

EXAMINER

BUI, K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2711	5

DATE MAILED: 02/02/00

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/375,901	Applicant(s) Knudson
Examiner "Krista" Kieu-Oanh Bui	Group Art Unit 2711



Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle* 35 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 4

Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

--- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES ---

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 3 is objected to because of the following informalities: “-- selected by the a user.” should be corrected as “-- selected by the user .” Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371© of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

3. Claims 1-9, 11-17, 19-26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by LaJoie et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,850,218).

Regarding claim 1, LaJoie et al (or “LaJoie” hereinafter) teach an interactive program guide system in which an interactive program guide is implemented on user multi-media equipment of a user for displaying; programming for a plurality of channels on the user equipment, wherein each channel carries primarily one of a plurality of media types, i.e., video on demand, world wide web browsing, Internet e-mails and on-line services (LaJoie, col. 2/lines 1-11), the interactive program guide system comprising means for supplying information on the

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media types that are associated with each of the channels (LaJoie, col. 2/lines 40-58); means for providing the user with the option of designating favorite channels (see LaJoie, Figs 9-10 for setting favorite channels); means for designating a preferred media type which reflects the user's interests, i.e., a user can select his favorite channels on different types of media services (see LaJoie, Figs. 5 and 15); and means for providing the user with the option of channel selection constrained to the favorite channels of the preferred media type (LaJoie, Fig. 5 & item 306/Fig. 15).

Regarding claims 2 and 3, the steps of wherein the means for designating the preferred media type comprises means for designating the preferred media type as the media type of the channel currently displayed on the user equipment and wherein the means for designating the preferred media type comprises means for designating the preferred media type as the media type associated with a program guide feature selected by the user are taught by LaJoie as he teaches the technique of setting favorite channels and channels are selected from a variety of sources, it is not limited to television and video but also including audio, World Wide Web, Internet e-mails and other services selected by the user and displaying them to the user (see LaJoie, Figs. 5 & 15, and col. 16/lines 10-67).

Regarding claims 4-5 and 6-7, LaJoie further teaches the steps of comprising means for supplying program listings data to the interactive program guide, wherein the means for providing the user with the option of channel selection constrained to the favorite channels of the preferred media type comprises means for displaying a selection list of program listings data wherein only

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program listings for favorite channels of the preferred media type are displayed (item 306/Fig. 15); means for supplying program listings data to the interactive program guide, wherein the means for providing the user with the option of channel selection constrained to the favorite channels of the preferred media type comprises means for displaying a selection list of program listings data wherein channel selection is from the selection list is constrained to favorite channels of the preferred media type, i.e., a user has no limit in selecting a channel from any media sources (Fig. 5 and col. 16/lines 10-28); and wherein the means for providing the user with the option of channel selection constrained to the favorite channels of the preferred media type comprises means for displaying on the user equipment the next favorite channel of the preferred media type. (see item 306/Fig. 15 for displaying more than one favorite channel).

Regarding claims 8-9, 16-17, the steps of wherein the media type is selected from the group consisting of television media, digital audio media, games media, data media, and video-on-demand media and wherein the media type is selected as a subset of the group consisting of television media, digital audio media, games media, data media, and video-on-demand media are taught by LaJoie as LaJoie's system utilizes a variety of services including television broadcasting or cable, Video-On-Demand or VOD, Near Video-on-Demand or NVOD, split service, home shopping service, on-line database service can be included games, music service, E-Mail service, WWW services (including games media as well), still image library service or data media in either analog or digital forms (see col. 1/lines 5-55 and col. 2/lines 52-58).

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Regarding claim 11, LaJoie teaches a system comprising multimedia equipment that receives a plurality of channels, wherein each channel carries primarily one of a plurality of media types (Fig. 5); a user control device with which the user issues a command when it is desired to access a channel (items 128 & 136/Fig. 15); and an interactive program guide configured to receive information on the media types that are associated with each of the channels, to provide the user with the option of designating favorite channels; to designate a preferred media type corresponding to the media type of channel to which the tuner is tuned; and to provide the user with the option of channel selection constrained to the favorite channels of the preferred media type (Fig. 15, col. 4/lines 36-52).

Regarding claims 12-15, LaJoie further teaches the steps of wherein the interactive program guide is configured to receive program listings data and to display a selection list of program listings data wherein only program listings for favorite channels of the preferred media type are displayed on the multi-media equipment; wherein the interactive program guide is configured to receive program listings data and to display a selection list of program listings data wherein channel selection from the selection list is constrained to favorite channels of the preferred media type (see item 306/Fig. 15, Fig. 5 and col. 16/lines 10-28); and wherein the interactive program guide is configured to display the next favorite channel of the preferred media type upon receiving the command from the user control device to select a channel (see item 306/Fig. 15 for displaying more than one favorite channel).

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Regarding claims 19-26 and 28, these method claims for accessing channels in an interactive program guide system implemented on user multi-media equipment of a user for displaying programming on a plurality of user-selectable channels on the user equipment, wherein each channel carries primarily one of a plurality of media types as claimed are rejected for the reasons given with respect to system claims of 1-9 and 11-17 as already disclosed above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 10, 18 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over LaJoie et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,850,218) in view of Bedard (U.S. Patent No. 5,801,747).

Regarding claims 10, 18 and 27, LaJoie does not specifically include the step of further comprising means for storing favorite channels of a user in a preference profile; however, this technique is taught by Bedard as Bedard clearly discloses a method for creating a television viewer profile by storing preferred viewing statuses in a storing means (see Bedard, col. 2/lines 23-34). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify LaJoie's technique of setting up favorite channels with the

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technique as one of Bedard's storing means for viewer's preferred profile in order to obtain an enhanced interactive program guide system that offers favorite channels based on stored preferred viewer profile selected by a user for the purpose of offering that user quick accesses to a variety of services based on his/her stored preference profile as desired.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Klosterman (U.S. Patent No. 5,923,362) discloses a television system which is merged multi-source information.

Wugofski (U.S. Patent No. 6,003,041) discloses a method and managing multiple channel maps from multiple input devices in a multimedia system.

Knee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,589,892) disclose an electronic television program guide schedule system and method with data feed access.

7. **Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

(703) 308-5399, (for informal or draft communications, please label
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT").

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

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8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Krista Kieu-Oanh Bui whose telephone number is (703) 305-0095. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Faile, can be reached on (703) 305-4380. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-6306 or 308-6296.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Andrew Faile
ANDREW I. FAILE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
GROUP 2700

Krista Bui
Art Unit 2711
January 19, 2000